

From: CUSTOMER SUPPORT
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010
Subject: NFC 508 Compliance Highlights for 2009

NFC IMPORTANT CUSTOMER COMMUNICATION

To: All NFC Customers

The National Finance Center (NFC) is committed to providing equal access to Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) for people with disabilities in accordance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 508), as amended. Section 508 was enacted to eliminate barriers in Information Technology (IT), to make available new opportunities for people with disabilities, and to encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals. The law applies to all Federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use EIT.

At NFC, applications are designed, modified, and updated following Section 508 criteria. Web pages and applications are reviewed for compliance, and as revisions are made, updated according to the law. EIT accessibility planning is incorporated in all relevant EIT process work plans. Additionally, reviews are conducted as appropriate when user feedback is received regarding potential Section 508 issues. Over the last twelve months, NFC has undergone an extensive accessibility review. During that review, NFC identified and established several new internal procedures to ensure Section 508 compliance.

Some of the major highlights from this review include, but are not limited to the following:

- Implemented NFC-wide Training and Awareness campaign
- Updated the NFC Accessibility Statement to include Section 508 Compliance verbiage on all Web applications
- GESD has modified it's internal application systems life cycle to include 508 Compliance Testing
- Reviewed/Updated NFC's Procurement Policy
- Recruited Customer Testers at the February CAPPs meeting
- Established Partnership with USDA Target Center for Section 508 Compliance Testing
- Performed internal and external review of EmpowHR, webTA, EPIC, EPP, and NFC Homepage
- Procured accessibility testing software
- Formalized Section 508 Compliance testing in Quality Control Groups at NFC
- Established and Formalize Complaint Resolution Process for Section 508 issues

If you have questions regarding NFC's Section 508 compliance, please email the OCFO Section 508 Coordinator at ocfo.508coordinator@usda.gov, or call the NFC Operations and Security Center help desk at 1-800-767-9641 or 504-426-6435.

DBS/M6-10-040/048